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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s): Thorsten Laux

Assignee: Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Title: A SYSTEM AND METHOD INCLUDING A MERGING DRIVER
FOR ACCESSING MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES

Serial No.: 09/738,464

Filed: December 13, 2000

Examiner: Unknown

Group Art 2171
Unit:

Docket No.: P-4589

Monterey, CA
July 12, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER §1.97(B)

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant wishes to call the following documents (a copy of each is enclosed) to the attention of the Examiner:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME
1) <i>SL</i>	5,826,261	10/20/98	Graham
2) <i>SL</i>	5,913,214	06/15/99	Stuart

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FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

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	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME
1) <i>BS</i>	WO 97/33239	10/20/98	Tabuchi et al.
2) <i>BS</i>	WO 90/08360	07/26/90	Meyer et al.
3)	EP 09/18293	05/26/99	Takahashi

OTHER DOCUMENTS

1)	Koh J, et al., "Query Execution Strategies for Missing Data in Distributed Heterogeneous Object Databases", Proceedings of the International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems, IEEE Comp. Soc. Press, vol. CONF. 16, pg. 466-473, 1996
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A PTO form 1449 listing these documents is enclosed.

Each of the above references was cited in a European Search Report for a corresponding European Patent Office Application upon which the above U.S. application claims priority. A copy of the European Search Report (4 pages) is enclosed.

Citation of the above documents shall not be construed as:

1. an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
2. a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; or
3. an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

If the U.S.P.T.O. issued a first office action prior to the mailing date of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, and to credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0553.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

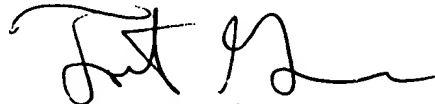
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 12, 2002.



Attorney for Applicant(s)

July 12, 2002
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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